

House Resolution 511

By: Representatives Scott of the 153rd, Sheldon of the 105th, Holt of the 112th, Meadows of the 5th, Fleming of the 117th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Local Government; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, cities and counties are important partners to the State of Georgia in providing
3 a high quality of life for residents across the state; and
- 4 WHEREAS, cities provide centers of commerce, a sense of place, a variety of municipal
5 services, and a government that is closest to the people; and
- 6 WHEREAS, county governments within Georgia have traditionally provided constitutionally
7 mandated services and have served as administrative units for the provision of state services;
8 and
- 9 WHEREAS, the role of cities and counties has evolved over the years as state and local
10 governments have struggled to accommodate Georgia's swelling population; and
- 11 WHEREAS, actions of the General Assembly of Georgia have at times resulted in
12 duplication of services, competition for revenue, and confusion over the proper role of cities
13 and counties; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the 2007 regular session of the General Assembly of Georgia has been faced
15 with legislation concerning annexation, deannexation, and incorporation of municipalities;
16 the creation of townships; and a variety of other issues that demonstrate the very real conflict
17 in how local governments should act, relate to one another, and resolve conflicts; and
- 18 WHEREAS, vibrant, prosperous, and responsive local governments working cooperatively
19 with one another and the state are vital to the future health and prosperity of Georgia; and
- 20 WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to study these issues to determine the best course
21 for the future of local government in this state.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Local Government to be
3 composed of ten members. Five members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House
4 of Representatives. One member appointed by the Speaker shall be the mayor of a
5 municipality in Georgia, one member shall be the chairperson of a board of county
6 commissioners in Georgia, and three members shall be members of the House of
7 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate one of the members from the House of
8 Representatives to serve as cochairperson of the committee. Five members shall be
9 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. One member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor
10 shall be the mayor of a municipality in Georgia, one member shall be the chairperson of a
11 board of county commissioners in Georgia, and three members shall be members of the
12 Senate. The Lieutenant Governor shall designate one of the members of the Senate to serve
13 as cochairperson of the committee. The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the
14 committee.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
16 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
17 or legislation that the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
18 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
19 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
20 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The committee may call upon the
21 services of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, the Association County Commissioners
22 of Georgia, and the Georgia Municipal Association for assistance in accomplishing its tasks.
23 The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for
24 legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more
25 than five days unless additional days are authorized. The county and municipal members of
26 the committee shall not receive any compensation for their service on the committee but shall
27 be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in serving on the committee. The funds
28 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
29 appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate. In the event that the committee
30 makes a report of its findings and recommendations with suggestions for proposed
31 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2007. The
32 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2007.